APPENDIX H

Interpretive Trail Guides

Sieur de Monts Spring Trail Guide
Jordan Pond Nature Trail
The Carroll Homestead—Self-Guiding Trail

Sieur de Monts Spring Trail Guide

The following is only the text for the trail guide. There are no numbered posts. It is provided to give guides an idea of what is available to their groups. To purchase the actual trail guide, check at park information centers.

WELCOME TO SIEUR DE MONTS SPRING

Nature shaped the valley. Glaciers carved it out, leaving Dorr Mountain and Huguenot Head to tower above. A fire swept through here in 1947, forcing the spruce-fir forest to surrender to maples, birches, and aspens. Wetlands at both ends of the valley—the Tarn to the south and Great Meadow to the north-replenish or dry, at the mercy of snowmelt, rain, and beaver dams.

People shaped this valley. The human presence can be traced back to American Indians, early European settlers, and those who came to enjoy the natural beauty of Mount Desert Island. Sieur de Monts Spring chronicles not only natural events of the long distant past, but the story of people who strove to preserve it as part of a great national park.

Follow the paved path to the wooden bridge.

EXPLORERS, SETTLERS, AND FOUNDERS

When the French explorer, Sieur de Monts, sailed along these shores in 1604, this spring area lay in the shadows of the unknown, untouched and unseen by Europeans. The spring was probably known to American Indians who visited it while passing through the gorge between Huguenot Head and Dorr Mountain, on their way to Otter Creek.

Sieur de Monts' navigator, Samuel Champlain, charted the coast, including this island, which he named l'Isle des Monts Desert—Island of Barren Mountains. The island, with its prominent headlands and peaks, became an unmistakable landmark for mariners, and part of the prize in the war between the French and British.

George B. Dorr, a park founder and its first superintendent (1916-1944), was fascinated by the island's French history. When he acquired the land around this spring, he named it in honor of the man who sought to open the New World to French settlement and establish "New France" in North America.

From the bridge, follow the gravel path to the domed spring house.

SWEET WATERS OF ACADIA

The British battled the French for dominance in the New World, and won. By the American Revolutionary War, Maine was still sparsely settled. Islanders subsisted on what they could harvest from sandy, rocky soil and the sea. Land once known only to American Indians was divided into homesteads and its forests harvested.

The land around the spring was once farm land. In the early 1900s, two enterprising islanders planned to open a commercial spring water business here. Their scheme failed and George B. Dorr purchased the spring in 1909.

Dorr placed the Florentine-style canopy over the spring "with openings upon the sides protected to a man's height and over with plates of purest glass, so that all who wished might look in." He carved Sweet Waters of Acadia on a boulder "in memory of two spring fountains I had once visited…built by the Greeks{sic} and named "The Sweet Waters of Europe and The Sweet Waters of Asia."

To the right of the spring and boulder is a wooden post that marks the Dorr Mountain trails. Walk over to it.

STONE STEPS TO THE SUMMIT

Early settlers and visitors recorded following "Indian paths" on many parts of the island. Islanders added to this network as needed. By the late 1800s and early 1900s, visitors and summer residents, like George B. Dorr, great walkers all, desired trails that went beyond mere utility.

Village Improvement Societies oversaw the construction of new trails that blended harmoniously with the landscape and delivered the hiker to beautiful scenery. Often times, trail builders used granite found along trail routes to build unobtrusive but solid trails.

Stone stepped trails characterize the pathways to Dorr Mountain's summit. Trails with stairways, builders believed, allowed hikers of every ability to enjoy steep, or otherwise impassible mountainsides.

Follow the Dorr Mountain Trail a short way to a second trail sign. It is not very far and involves only a couple of stone steps. If you prefer, remain where you are.

MEMORIAL PATHS

This is the East Face Trail, originally called the Emery Path. Sponsors were sought to fund trail construction. Sponsors could name a trail in memory of the person of their choice. Such trails were known as memorial paths. Mrs. John Anson, a summer resident, commissioned this trail in memory of her late husband, John Emery.

This mountain was once called Dry Mountain. George B. Dorr changed it to Flying Squadron Mountain in honor of World War I French flyers. It was again renamed following George B. Dorr's death, honoring him for his efforts to create Acadia National Park. It is a fitting tribute to the man who directed much of the trail work on this mountain, and donated the land comprising Sieur de Monts Spring to the National Park Service.

You may follow the Jesup Path to the left. The walk is easy. When you rejoin the paved path, bear right and follow it to The Robert Abbe Museum. If you did not follow the trail to the intersection, follow the paved path up to the museum.

THE ROBERT ABBE MUSUEM: ONE MAN'S INSPIRATION

Robert Abbe was a New York surgeon who helped pioneer the use of radium. In 1922 he discovered a new pastime as an amateur archeologist. In Bar Harbor, a window display of ancient stone tools drew him inside for a closer look. The tools and their history fired his imagination. The Right Reverend William Lawrence wrote of that moment: "These very stones that he was handling had been in the hands of men who lived and fished along these shores, climbed these mountains, and brought up families before history began. These stones were their tools…"

Dr. Abbe's purchase of this collection led to others and laid the foundation for Maine's first archeological museum exhibiting artifacts of pre-historic and historic American Indian cultures.

He raised funds to build a museum at Sieur de Monts Spring which he intended to be a small trailside museum. Dr. Abbe wrote: "My aim has been to create a permanent 'one show' historic incident in the path of the 'Madding Crowd' and to make it as perfect as possible."

Dr. Abbe never saw the completion of his museum. He died in 1928, five months before it opened. However, his legacy has led to professional archeological research in coastal Maine that continues today, and to exhibits that help us understand those whose footsteps we follow.

Enjoy the Abbe Musuem (a small fee is charged) or follow the paved path back down toward the spring. A short trail branches to the right to a stream and small pool of water. Follow the stepping stones down to the water.

A CHANGING SCENE

Sieur de Monts Spring little resembles what American Indians knew prior to European settlement. George B. Dorr described how he landscaped Sieur de Monts Spring in 1909: "Freeing it from a concealing cover of sphagnum moss and fallen leaves…I shaped the sloping ground about it into a shell-like concave basin, deeply draining it…"

He piped the flow of water to this artificial pool, allowing people access to the water. The water does not possess any special mineral properties and is not recommended for drinking.

Styles of landscaping and attitudes toward natural areas change through the years. George B. Dorr's design of Sieur de Monts Spring reflected a different era and different ideas about "nature parks." Because of Dorr's contributions to Acadia National Park, Sieur de Monts Spring is preserved as an area of cultural significance within a natural area.

Retrace your steps to the main path. Cross the first bridge on your right, bear left, then right to the Nature Center. To the right, framed by shrubbery, is a monument to George B. Dorr.

A GIFT FOR ALL TIME

George B. Dorr devoted much of his adult life and family fortune to preserving portions of Mount Desert Island and to establishing and promoting Acadia National Park. He helped form the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations in 1901 "to acquire by devise, gift, or purchase…for public use lands in Hancock County, Maine…" In 1916, on behalf of the Trustees, he presented 5000 acres of land to the National Park Service and the nation. Since 1916, more donations and some purchases have expanded the park to well over 35,000 acres.

Sieur de Monts Spring was described by George B. Dorr as "one of the foundations on which the future park was built." His gift of ten acres around this stone represents the gifts of hundreds of public-spirited people who have given land and resources to help create Acadia National Park.

Today, the tradition of stewardship is continued by volunteers, preservation groups, and all those who try to leave the park in better condition than when they arrived. This is George B. Dorr's legacy for all time.

Jordan Pond Nature Trail

This text-only copy is provided to give guides an idea of what is available to their groups on this trail. To purchase the actual trail guide, check at park information centers.

STOP ONE

Very few plants grow on the forest floor here. Evergreen trees, like balsam fir and red spruce, often create forests of deep shade that prevent most other plants from getting enough light to live. And evergreens' slow-decaying leaves make the soil too acidic for most plants to grow. By limiting the invasion of other plants, these trees reduce competition for light, water, and nutrients.

As dense stands of young trees mature, some will dominate and grow taller. The rest will die, leaving a more open, but still shady forest floor. Look for a forest like this as you walk farther along the trail. Early settlers found Maine's forests a rich bounty, providing wood for homes, ships, barrels, fuel, and markets.

STOP TWO

What differences do you see between the last stop and here? Like most broad-leaved trees, American beeches admit more light than evergreens, allowing more plants to grow beneath them. As you visit other areas in Acadia where broad-leaved trees are common, compare the number of understory plants to the ones in predominantly evergreen forests.

The first European settlers in eastern North America learned that American beech trees would often be numerous where soils were rich. They looked for stands of beeches as signs of productive places to farm. Another common tree along this trail is the northern white cedar. Look for its distinctive streaked and slightly shaggy bark and tiny flattened leaves as you walk to post #3.

STOP THREE

From post #3, go down the trail to a stone walk 25 yards to the right. Can you imagine that this wetland was once an arm of Jordan Pond? Over time, silt and decaying water plants have filled in from both banks, creating enough soil for land plants to invade. This process often occurs in small shallow bodies of water. The rock path, originally built in the early part of the century and rebuilt in 1983, may have lessened lake waves and speeded up the process. Can you see any evidence that a forest may one day stand on this site?

A number of other much larger wetlands, like Bass Harbor Marsh and Pretty Marsh, occur in the lowlands of Mt. Desert Island. Early settlers grazed livestock there, and cut the grasses for hay.

Turn around and retrace your steps to post #3, then walk straight ahead with the pond on your right.

STOP FOUR

This was a cedar tree like the ones you identified before. The elongated holes were made by huge (17 inches long) pileated woodpeckers foraging for insect larvae that live in and eat the wood. Other organisms that feed on dead trees include bacteria and fungi. Enzymes that these decomposers produce digest and soften the wood, contributing to the natural recycling all living things eventually undergo. Can you find other trees in more advanced stages of decay along the trail?

Living cedar trees produce resins and tannic acids that discourage invasion by insects and fungus. These same chemicals slow the rotting process in dead cedars. Area residents have used long-lasting cedar wood for many purposes, including furniture, fences, shingles, and carriage road junction signs.

STOP FIVE

The rounded hills at the far end of the lake are called the Bubbles. Notice that the forests to the right of the Bubbles are a lighter shade of green than other forests on nearby slopes. The lighter greens are a forest of hardwood trees. After a fire in 1947, beeches, birches, and other hardwoods colonized burned-over slopes. Such quick regrowth by hardwoods is common after major disturbances. However, evergreens will likely reclaim some of the slopes over time. Look for hardwood forests as signs of areas burned by the 1947 fire as you travel around the east side of the island.

A previous fire, in 1864, destroyed most of the nearby forests, and ended a logging operation run by the Jordan brother, for whom the lake is named.

STOP SIX

Granite forms the mountains of Acadia, the boulders in the water, and the bedrock beneath your feet. Small crystals of different types of minerals—quartz, hornblende, feldspar-compose the 375 million-year-old rocks, giving them a mottled look. They formed as molten rock called magma cooled slowly, thousands of feet below the earth's surface. Erosion by rain, wind, and glaciers in the intervening eons have removed the overlying materials and shaped Acadia's landscape.

The dramatic coastal mountain scenery that resulted began attracting artists in the 1840s. Their paintings sparked an interest in the island that culminated in the creation of Acadia National Park. During the 19th and 20th centuries, workers quarried from Mt. Desert Island and nearby islands millions of tons of granite destined for use in buildings and bridges all over the northeastern United States.

STOP SEVEN

The rock wall in the woods is the foundation of an old pump house. Lake water was pumped up to a garden where the upper parking lot now lies. Vegetables from the garden were used at the original Jordan Pond House Restaurant, which served artists, hikers, and carriage users for almost a century.

Long before anyone thought of Acadia as a place for recreation, humans were exploiting the island's economic resources. People of European descent began settling here in 1761. They timbered the

mountains, farmed and grazed stock on the meadows and wetlands, built boats in the many coves and harbors, and harvested what at the time seemed to be inexhaustible stocks of fish and lobsters in nearby waters. Eventually the restaurant became a market for their catch.

Ahead you will come to the Jordan Pond Boat Launch. To find post #8, walk directly across the boat launch, keeping the pond on your right.

STOP EIGHT

This exhibit panel tells how glaciers changed the landscape of Acadia. The huge granite boulder in the water to the left of the panel is an "erratic," carried here in ice at the bottom of a glacier from a place dozens of miles away. Thousands of erratics dotting Acadia and all of New England are dramatic evidence of the glaciers' extent and power.

At the fork in the trail ahead, go left to post #9.

STOP NINE

In the 1880s, the Tibbetts family took over the old Jordan brothers farmhouse and offered "a good rural lunch at a good rural price." A tradition of afternoon tea and popovers on the lawn began around 1900. Over the decades the farmhouse was expanded to serve growing numbers of people who come to the island to recreate and relax. The present Jordan Pond House was built in 1982 to replace the original, which burned in 1979.

From among the early visitors came the individuals who envisioned and brought the park into being. In 1901, long-time summer residents began working to conserve the forests and vistas they loved. Encouraged by Charles Eliot, president of Harvard University, George Dorr devoted forty-three years of his life, energy, and family fortune to the creation and development of Acadia National Park.

From here the trail turns left 25 yards to post #10. If you plan to visit the Jordan Pond House, please walk first to post #10 and return this booklet.

STOP TEN

The oil-permeated bark of the paper birch tree is waterproof. American Indians made use of this quality for centuries, lining canoes, shelters, and containers with strips or swaths of the tough but flexible material. (Compare the curly, gold-tinged bark of the yellow birch across the trail.) Indian populations were small, and their exploitation of natural resources could be easily absorbed by their environment.

Today, millions of visitors come to Acadia each year, putting pressure on the park's resources. We must all try to minimize our impact. If, for example, many people were to peel bark from the birches, the trees would lose their protection from insect and fungus attack. Please take care during your visit not to damage or disturb any of Acadia's plants and animals. Working together, we can ensure that this park remains beautiful and interesting for generations of visitors to come.

The Carroll Homestead—Self-Guiding Trail

There are no numbered posts. The beginning of the trail starts at the bus drop-off, traveling a short distance through the woods. Where the trail enters the homestead, at the old barn site, wander around the homestead by walking around the front of the house and out toward the open ledges, then walk around the back of the house.

This trail guide is provided to give guides an idea of what is available to their groups at this park site. To purchase the actual trail guide, check at park information centers.

The Carroll Homestead gives us a glimpse into the past and the rich heritage of coastal Maine. The generations of Carrolls who have lived at the "Mountain House" reflect the industrious lifestyle typical to this region. Interdependence, not isolation, dictated their daily lives. Decades later, coastal Mainers still maintain a strong connection to the land and the sea, a dedication to hard work, and a commitment to family.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Carroll Homestead. The Carroll family lived in their "Mountain House" from 1825 to 1917. Their homestead depicts a way of life that was representative of coastal Maine during this time.

1825-1870
John and Rachel: 1 son, 5 daughters

1870-1900
Jacob and Rebecca: 2 sons, 8 daughters

1900-1917
John and Viola: 4 sons, 2 daughters

Coastal homesteads were modest, living conditions were often crowded, and the work abundant. Many families supported themselves through farming, fishing and ship building. Although most people were self-employed, they maintained a close relationship with the community for their social, spiritual, and economic well being. The Carroll family raised food, fiber, and fuel to support the household, but produced little that was taken to market. Ties to the family and the land were strong and accounted for much of their perseverance.

TIMBER AND ROCK MOUNDS

(*on trail through woods*)
Clearing the land of trees and rocks was back-breaking, essential work to provide an area for fields, pastures and a house site. The forest provided an abundance of timber needed for construction, cooking, and heating.

The Carrolls often cut trees during the winter when logs were easily hauled on sleds over frozen roads and when more help was available. "Winter is upon us and finds the seafaring population at home; the chief occupation at present is getting the year's supply of firewood." (Mount Desert Herald 1884)

Rock mounds are abundant throughout the Carroll homestead. Some of the rocks were used for foundations or stone walls like the one that leads to the barn site.

LIVESTOCK

(*at old barn site*)
The quantity and variety of livestock varied depending on the family's needs. The Carroll family always kept cows. Oxen were used in the early years to clear the land. Sheep were kept for the first 67 years and provided wool for clothing. Chickens and horses were also kept at various times. Hay was harvested in several fields and around the house site and stored in the one-story barn that once stood on the property.

HOME AND HEARTH

(*in front of house*)
The kitchen was the largest room in the house and the center of family life. "Most families had their "fire kettle" to bring coals from the neighbor's hearth in case their own fire went out. In many homes, fire on the hearth, carefully covered at night, was kept alive for years and to frequently be obliged to "borrow fire" was held to be a sign of shiftlessness on the part of the household." (Nellie Thornton:1933)

Surely many a story was told around the warmth of a fireplace or stove on cold winter nights. The number of year-round residents in the Carroll house ranged between three and 12, with an average of six people over the 92 years. The house was enlarged in 1850. Can you locate the 15 foot addition that more than doubled the size of the house?

OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT

(*by old apple tree*)
Off-farm work often supplemented the income of coastal farmers, and provided money to purchase items that could not be produced on the farm. Goods or labor were also common forms of payment for services.

Masonry was a mainstay of the Carroll family economy. Four of the Carroll men were masons. The men were often gone for a week or more as they worked on fine homes in Northeast Harbor or other parts of the island. John (II) Carroll received many apple tree grafts from people for whom he had done masonry work. A number of apple trees still remain on the property.

Teaching was a common occupation for women. Teachers were required to move often so students could be exposed to different ideas. Teachers rarely owned property or homes and often stayed with relatives before moving on to their next assignment.

Eight of the Carroll women earned a living as teachers. Mary Ann Carroll, daughter of John (I), taught school until she was almost 70 and often returned to the mountain house between terms.

THE LURE OF THE SEA

(*by ledges looking toward ocean*)
To the south lies Southwest Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean. The harbor was a beehive of activity where vessels unloaded their cargo and left with their holds full of granite, ice, fish, and cobblestones from Mount Desert Island.

In spite of the close proximity to the ocean, only one of the Carrolls was drawn to the sea. At the age of 16, Jacob Carroll began his seafaring career which took him across the Atlantic five times and around the world once.

A GARDEN AT THE DOORSTEP

(behind house)
Small gardens called "kitchen gardens" supplied many families with pole beans, radishes, carrots, lettuce, cucumbers, and herbs. Kitchen gardens were often located a stoneís throw from the house.

The Carroll family kitchen garden ran the length of the house. The men were responsible for initial plowing and planting, while the women and children attended to weeding and daily care. A blueberry patch was located across from the present day gravel road. The children occasionally earned extra "pin money" by selling some of the vegetables and blueberries to nearby summer cottage residents.

FAMILY LIFE

(*behind house*)
Coastal families were often large. Everyone was expected to contribute to the running of the farm and household. The younger children gathered eggs, or pulled weeds in the garden, while the older children tended to the livestock, chopped firewood or helped with the planting and the harvesting.

The Carroll children also had time to enjoy fishing, playing games and exploring "Dog Mountain", (St. Sauveur), located directly behind the house. Although school was not required by law, many children were taught at home or attended school when their help was not needed at home. The Carrolls knew the value of reading and writing and saw to it that their children attended school.

The church was a source of both spiritual and social activity, bringing neighbors together to share their joys and sorrows. The Carrolls rowed across the harbor to attend church in Manset until the late 1840s when church services were held within walking distance in Southwest Harbor.

WINDS OF CHANGE

(*northwest corner of property by large oak*)
By the early 1900s, modern conveniences such as electricity, telephones and indoor plumbing in the towns drew many Maine families off their homesteads. Better paying jobs were also available in town.

The Carroll family moved to Southwest Harbor in 1917, probably because of the convenience of nearby schools and services. By this time John's (II) masonry business was also well established in town.

The Carroll Homestead remained in family ownership after their move to Southwest Harbor. The family continued to harvest hay and timber from the property and to gather here for special occasions. In 1925 the family celebrated the 100th anniversary of John and Rachel's first Thanksgiving dinner in the house, complete with goose and plum pudding! From 1934 to 1953 the house was leased to summer residents. In 1982 the Carroll homestead, comprising 40.5 acres, was transferred to Acadia National Park.